

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: October 21, 2003
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: Dr. J. Hairston, Superintendent
SUBJECT: Recommended Charter School Policy and Rule 1600
ORIGINATOR: Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent

RESOURCE

PERSON(S): Phyllis Bailey, Executive Director, Special Programs, PreK-12
George Poff, Assistant to the Superintendent, Governmental Relations

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approve Policy 1600, Public
Charter School

The policy is aligned with the requirements of Senate Bill 75, Public Charter School Act of 2003.

Attachment I: Draft Board Policy 1600, Administration: Public Charter Schools

ADMINISTRATION: PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 9 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND MAY GRANT A CHARTER FOR A “PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL.” THE PRIMARY PUBLIC CHARTERING AUTHORITY IN THE GRANTING OF SUCH CHARTER SHALL BE THE BALTIMORE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION. A BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL ENDEAVOR TO REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. AS DEFINED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DIVERSITY INCLUDES RACIAL, ETHNIC, ECONOMIC, GENDER, AND SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATIONS.

THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS. APPLICATIONS SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SUPERINTENDENT AND/OR DESIGNEE FOR REVIEW, COMMENT, AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL RECOMMEND APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF THE APPLICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ESTABLISH CRITERIA WITH WHICH TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ELEMENTS RELATED TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, RESOURCES, AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT.

THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL APPLY BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL CRITERIA FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND STUDENT PERFORMANCE RESULTS TO THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL. THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL CONDUCT ALL ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN BALTIMORE COUNTY. THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL BE EVALUATED ANNUALLY BASED ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, FISCAL MANAGEMENT, AND OTHER CRITERIA PURSUANT TO ITS APPROVED APPLICATION AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ITS CHARTER AS SPECIFIED IN THE CHARTER AGREEMENT.

THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL PRESENT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT, INCLUDING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY, AS DESCRIBED IN THE APPROVED CHARTER AGREEMENT. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL REQUIRE FINANCIAL, PROGRAMMATIC, AND/OR COMPLIANCE AUDITS

CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAW, PROCEDURES, AND POLICIES.

IF A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL RECEIVES AN UNSATISFACTORY ANNUAL EVALUATION BASED UPON ITS ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REMEDIAL PLAN, PLACING THE CHARTER SCHOOL ON PROBATIONARY STATUS, OR MAY MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO REVOKE THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY REVOKE A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL'S CHARTER FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: THE SCHOOL HAS NOT FULFILLED A CONDITION IMPOSED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRANTING OF THE CHARTER AS SPECIFIED IN THE CHARTER AGREEMENT; THE SCHOOL HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW; THE FISCAL CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL IS SUBSTANTIALLY DEFICIENT; THE ACADEMIC CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL IS SUBSTANTIALLY DEFICIENT; THE FACILITY CAN NO LONGER SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM; AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL IS NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC, OR OF THE STUDENTS OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

UPON REVOCATION, STUDENTS SHALL BE REASSIGNED PURSUANT TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES, AND RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL REMAIN UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE *PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL ACT OF 2003*, SECTIONS 9-101—9-110 SECTIONS 4-205 (C); 6-401 (D); 6-501 (F)

SEE ALSO: POLICY 5150: STUDENTS: ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE